



**FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL
of British Columbia**

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First Nations Mourn Iconic Salmon Warrior

Ron Sparrow of SCC Sparrow Case Passes

Today the Musqueam Nation mourns the loss of an iconic Aboriginal Rights pioneer with the passing of Ronald Sparrow Jr. (Bud). Ron was well known across the country for the 1990 *R v. Sparrow* case, a landmark decision by the Supreme Court of Canada which recognized and affirmed existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, and has been foundational in Indigenous Rights legal challenges ever since.

“Ron was a well -respected, successful and knowledgeable skipper on the BC coast, as well as a committed family man, and a strong community role model. He fished commercially for decades, ran his own company, and as a member of the Musqueam Fisheries Commission negotiated with DFO to advance Musqueam fishing rights. He was also awarded the Environment and Natural Resources Award at the 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards,” said a community member.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Ron’s family and to the Musqueam community on this tremendous loss. We also extend our deepest gratitude to the Sparrow family for Ron’s courage and strength to stand up to the Crown, assert his inherent fishing rights, and deliver one of the leading cases on Indigenous Rights in Canadian jurisprudence – a powerful legacy that has and will continue to advance Aboriginal Title and Rights for all future generations.

A UNITED VOICE FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES

